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An  
Essay  
on  
*Cynanche Thachalis*

or

Croup

By Asahel Dearborn

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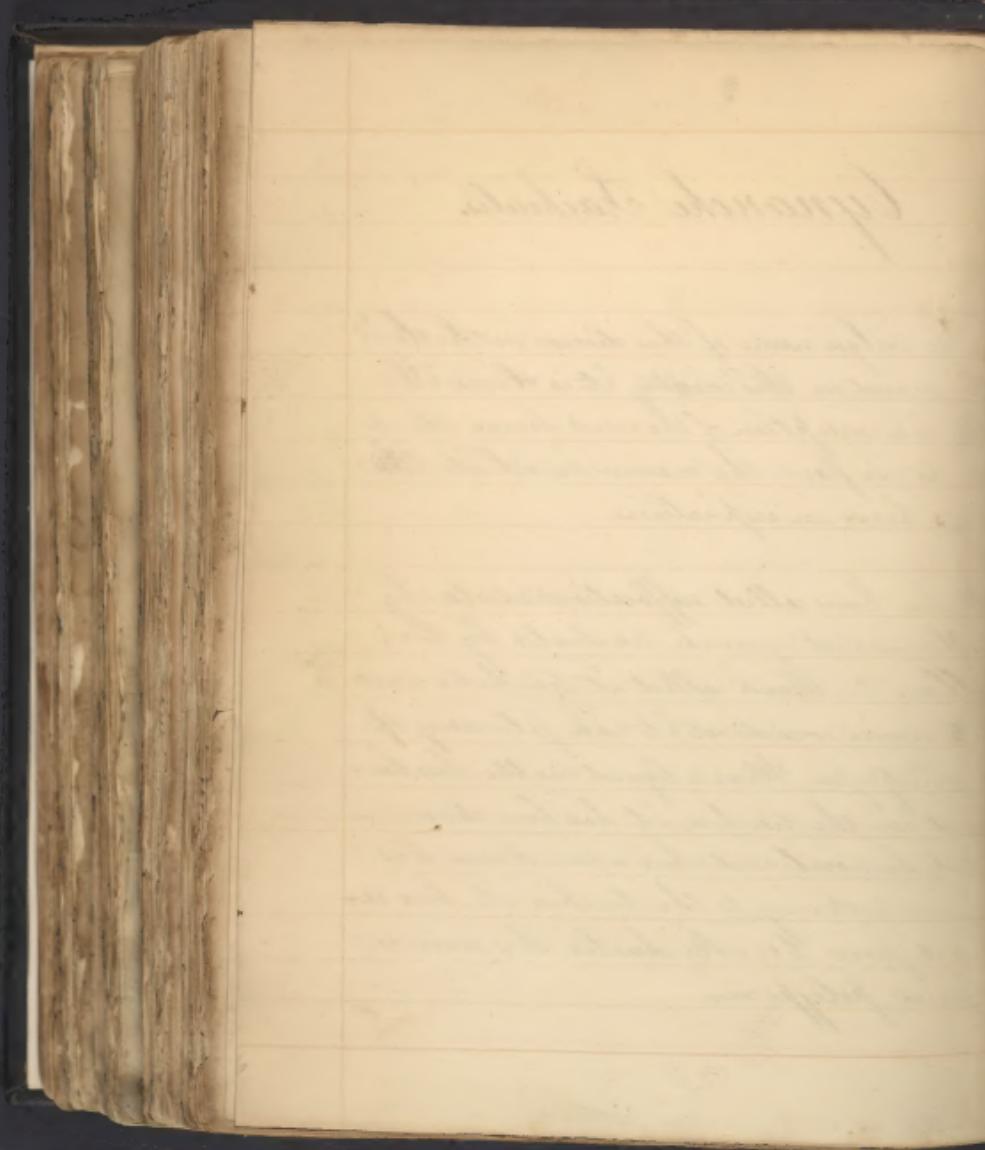
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## *Cynanche Thachalis.*

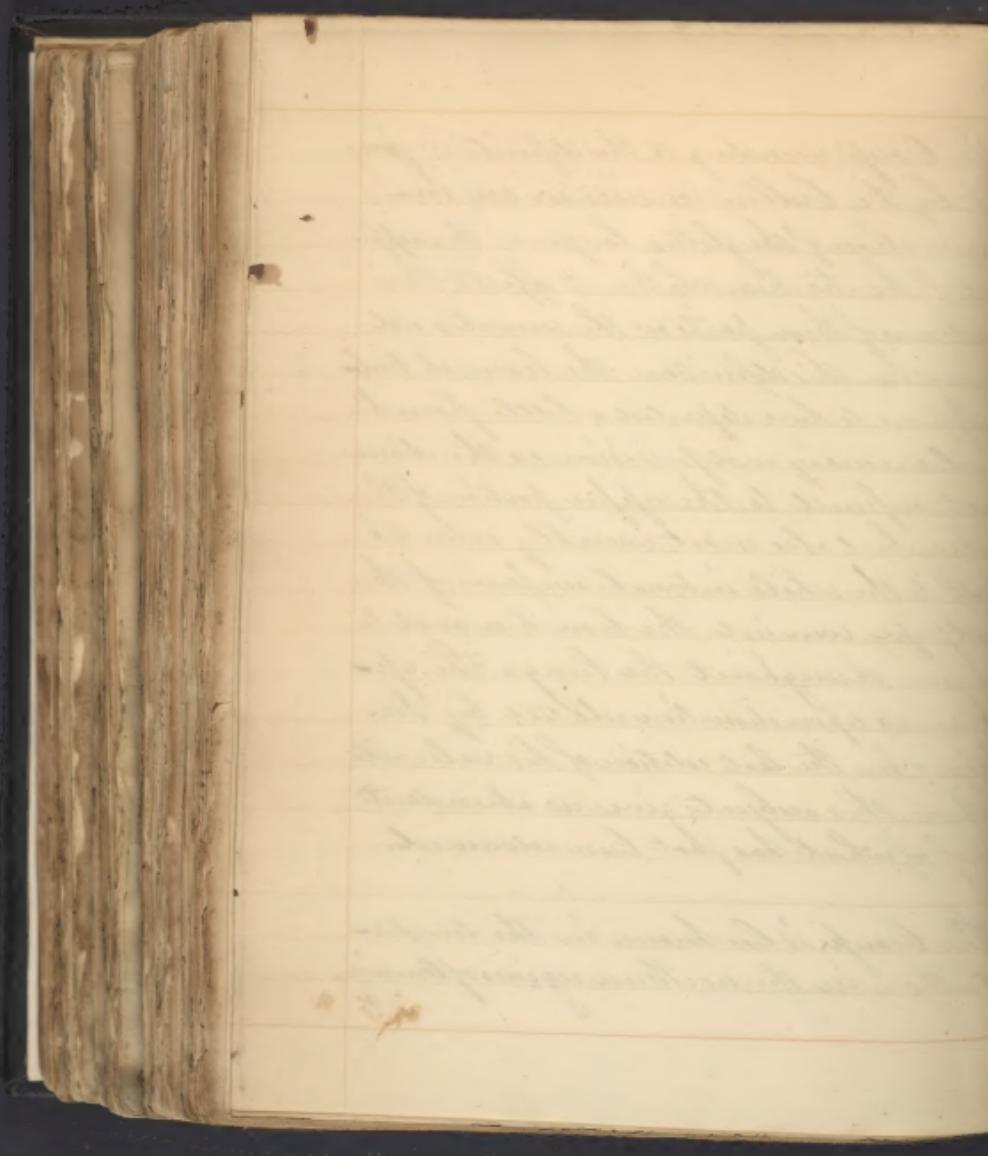
The vulgar name of this disease in Scotland  
is Croup and in this country it is Hives. The  
latter is a corruption of the word hæves which  
took its rise from the manner in which the  
lungs heave in inspiration.

It has been called suffocation stridula by  
Dr. Home and cynanche trachealis by Dr.  
Cullen. Dr. Frank called it tracheitis and  
Dr. Darwin considered it as a plenisy of  
the windpipe. When a liquid matter has been  
found in the trachea, it has been denomi-  
nated humoral, and when a membrane has  
been seen adhaing to the trachea it has re-  
ceived from Dr. Michael's the name of  
angumee polypose.



The Croup, according to the definition given  
of it by Dr. Cullen consists in an in-  
flammation of the glottis, larynx or the upper  
part of the trachea; whether it affects the  
membranes of these parts or the muscles over-  
lapping; in this definition the learned Doc-  
tor appears to have departed a little from his  
usual accuracy and precision, as the disease  
is not confined to the upper portion of the  
trachea, but also most usually extends  
itself to the whole internal surface of the  
windpipe, even into the bronchia and to  
a degree throughout the lungs. The ap-  
pearances upon dissection relate by Dr.  
Cheyne in the last edition of his valuable  
work on this subject, give us abundant  
proof of what has just been advanced.

The Croup is less known in the tem-  
perate than in the northern regions of America



It occurs chiefly in the winter and spring  
It is very prevalent in low situations  
exposed to an atmosphere passing over  
large bodies of water. It is in short, brought  
on by those causes which induce fevers,  
pleurisies and other inflammatory diseases  
in cold and changeable climates.

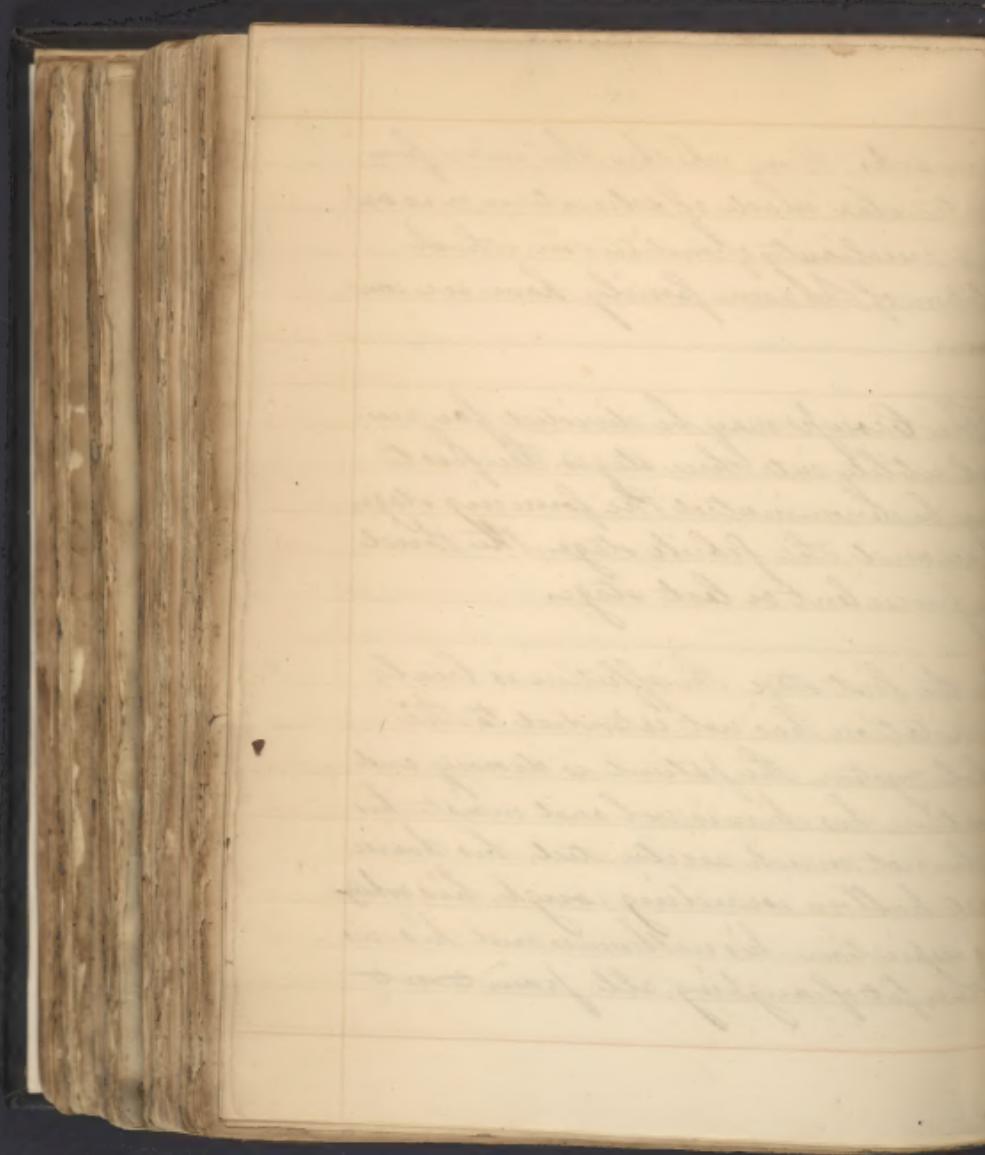
It not unfrequently makes its appearance  
suddenly, but often creeps on in the form  
of a slight attack and the child for a day  
or two appears drowsy, listless and inactive

This disease is sometimes attendant on  
other affections of the system Dr. Rush  
remarks I have seen it accompany as well  
as succeed the small pox, measles, scarlet  
fever and aphthous sore throat. Hence,  
the propriety of dividing this disease into  
two species, viz. idiopathic and symptoms

the same time, in a short  
time, you will have  
seen, and I have seen, all  
the birds of the world, &  
I have fully made up  
my mind to make it  
worth while to make  
it worth while to make

ast cough, id est asth'ma, when the disease  
is primarily and exclusively seated in the  
trachea, bronchia and surface of  
the lungs; symptomatic, when it is the  
consequence of some other previous disease.

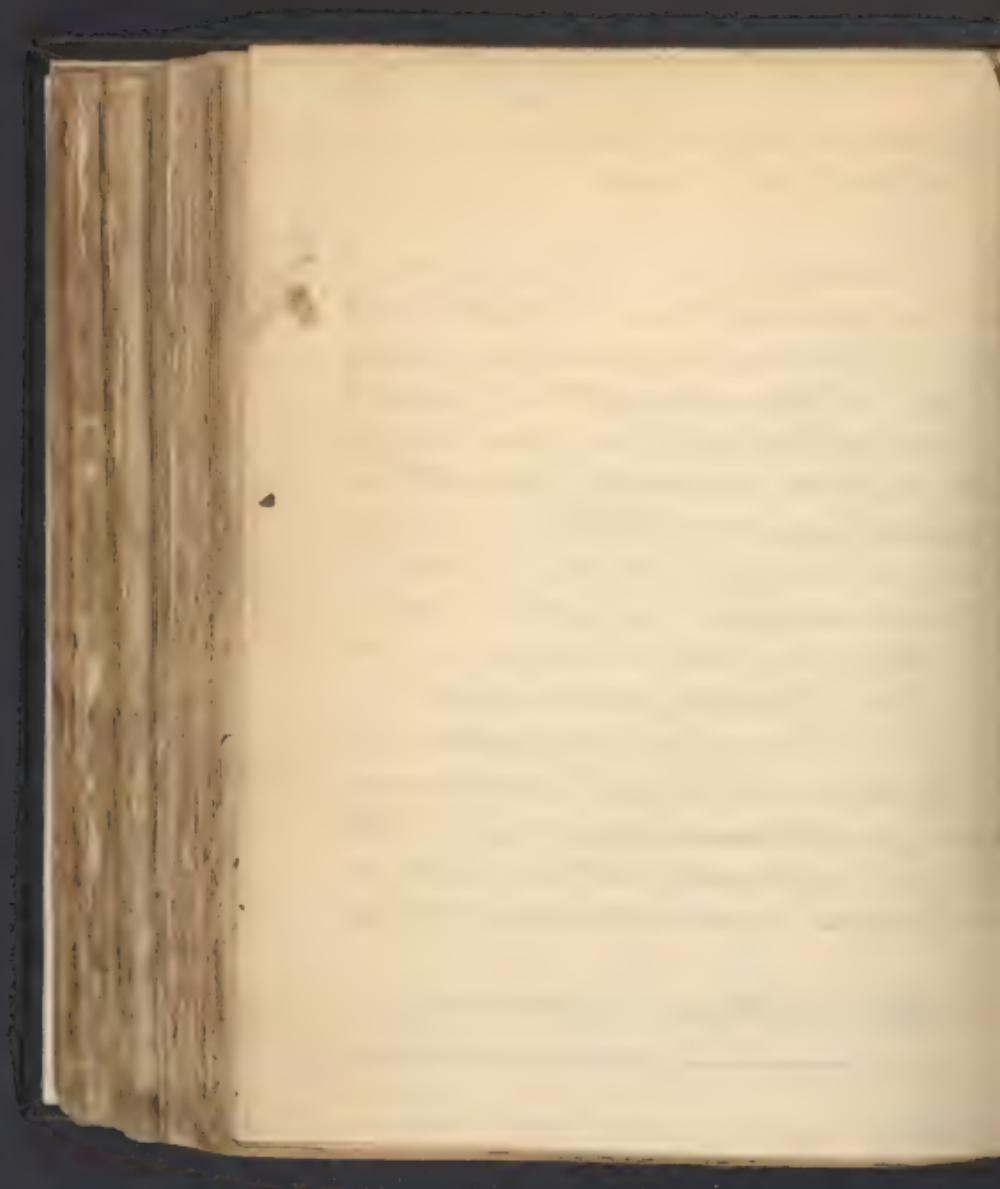
The Croup attacks children of all ages  
from a short time after birth until puberty. But the disease is generally confined  
to children from the age of one year to  
eight or ten. It but very seldom seizes  
children before they are weaned. It some-  
times attacks adults. The robust and healthy  
children are particularly liable to this  
complaint. It occurs but rarely in  
children exhausted by some other disease.  
The children of some families seem to be  
more subject to attacks of croup than others.  
Dr. Cheyne tell us that he has had  
the clearest proof of this "It is difficult



it remarks to say whether this arises from  
a particular mode of education or is owing  
to peculiarity of constitution which  
children of the same family have in common.

The Cough may be divided for practical utility into three stages. The first may be denominat'd the forming stage, the second the labile stage, the third the fulminant or last stage.

In the first stage the patient is weak, the imitation has not extended to the whole system. The patient is drowsy and inactive his skin is cool and moist his pulse not much accelerated, his hoarse and hollow sounding cough, his wheezing inspiration his nostrils round his nose after a fit of laughing, all point out



the nature of the disease.

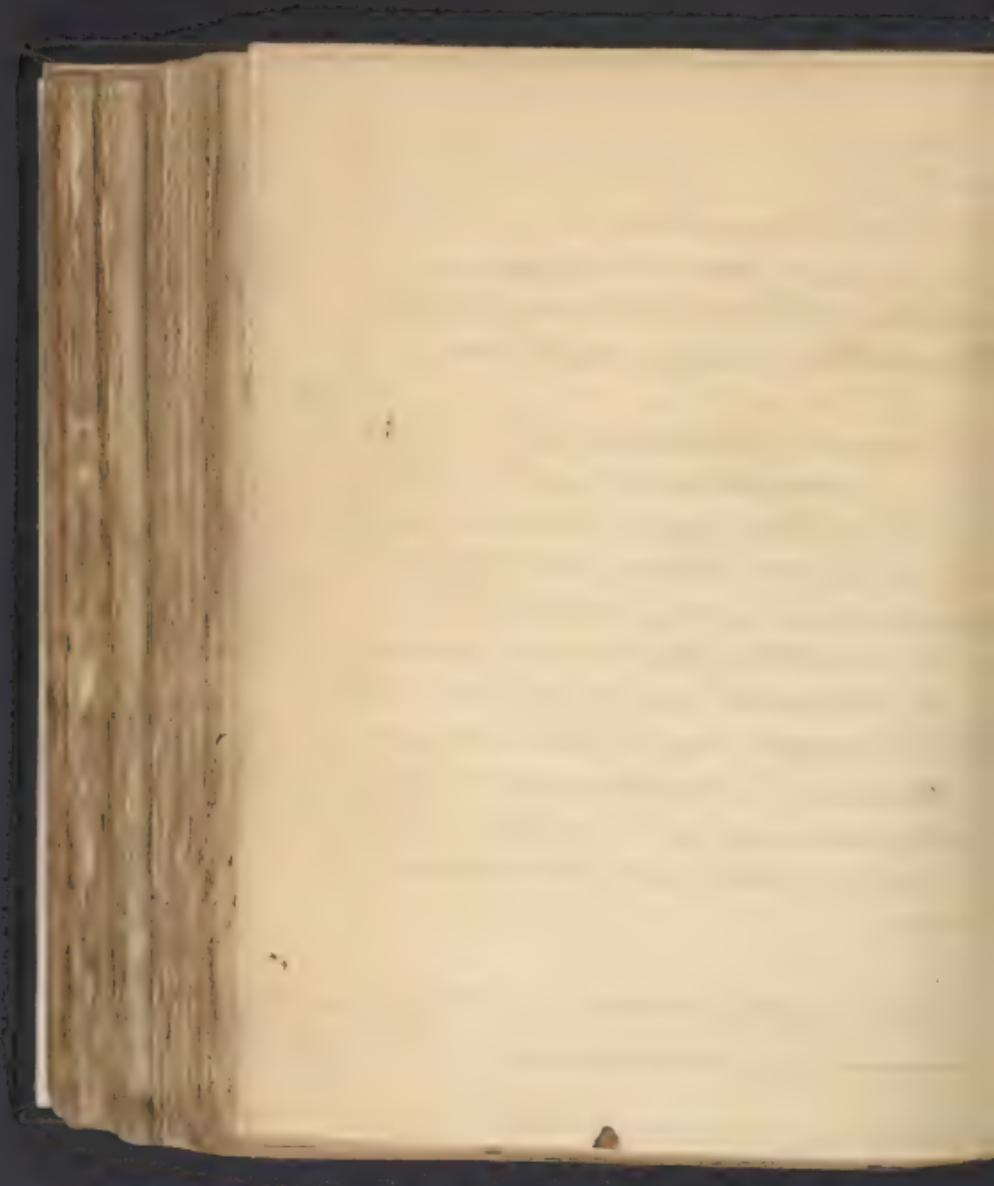
In the second stage the whole system partakes of the irritation. The pulse is hard, dry and thin hot and dry, respiration hurried, the tongue is moist with a white fur indicative of inflammation. The lips and cheeks are unmercifully florid, the cough as frequent and attended with an acute smart, every inspiration is attended with a more violent cheering than in the first stage, the whole has not a moment's reprieve from his suffering and in a short time if the most energetic means are not employed for his relief, the countenance becomes purple ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> stuporous <sup>and</sup> death either puts an period to all his sufferings or the disease runs on to its last stage.

In the last stage the effusion of



way-table lymph has taken place the  
symptoms of fever subside. The child is  
apparently free from pain but suffers  
restless & hiccoughs of long duration  
with irregular intervals, & fits of vomiting  
as in cholera and similar intervals of  
rest. These are very violent & sudden  
but a short time before & after them  
there is no pain. But in half an hour or  
more at the age of eight or ten years,  
they gradually continue for four or five  
days.

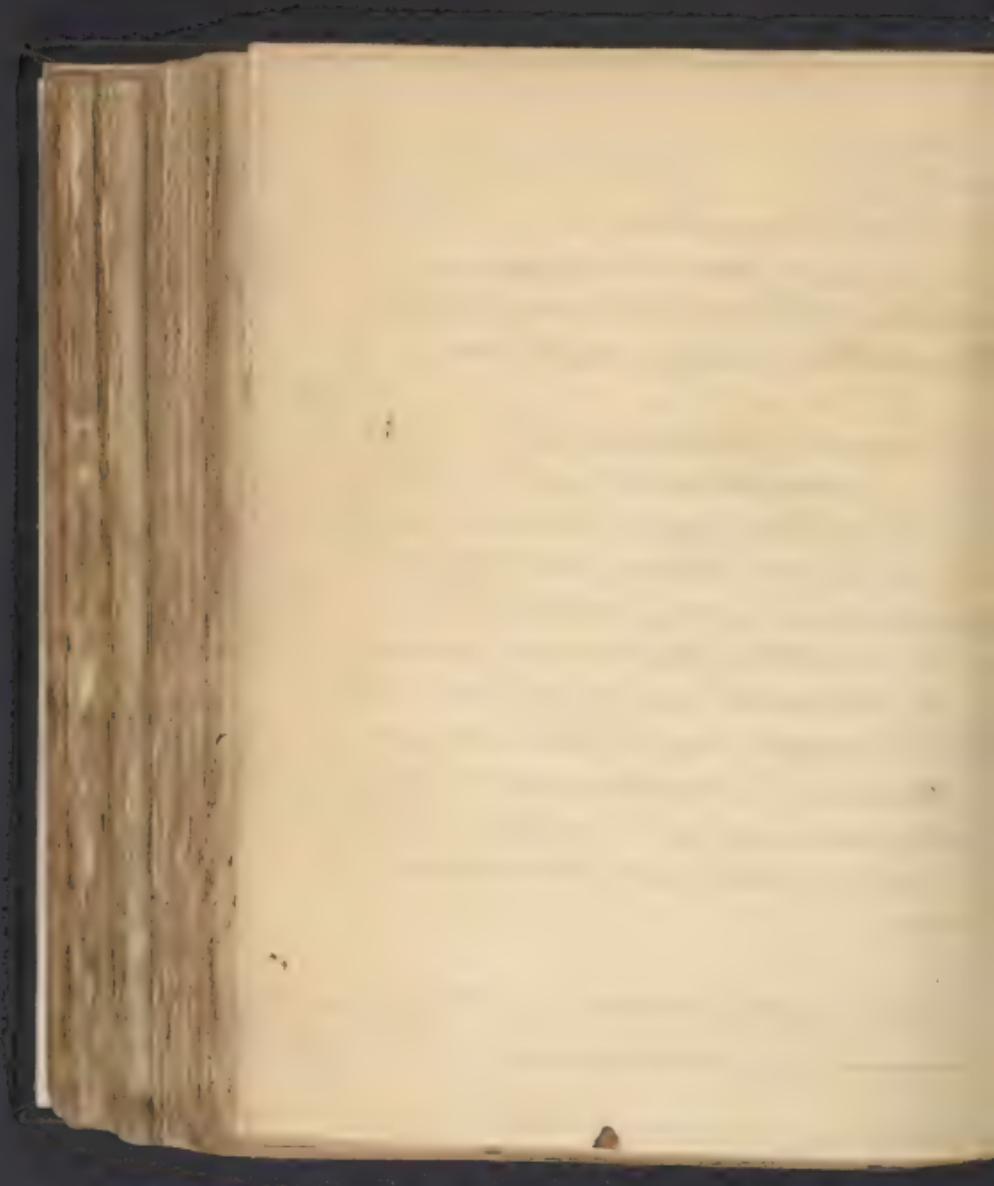
The appearance to be observed on  
dissection where lymph has terminated  
fatally, we are informed by Dr. Bail-  
lie, also a layer of a yellowish pulpy matter  
lining the inner membrane of trachea ex-  
tending from the upper part of the  
cavity of the larynx into the small



branches of the windpipe, which are distributed throughout the substance of the lungs; a good deal of mucus in the trachea and its branches, together with a very thin of pus.

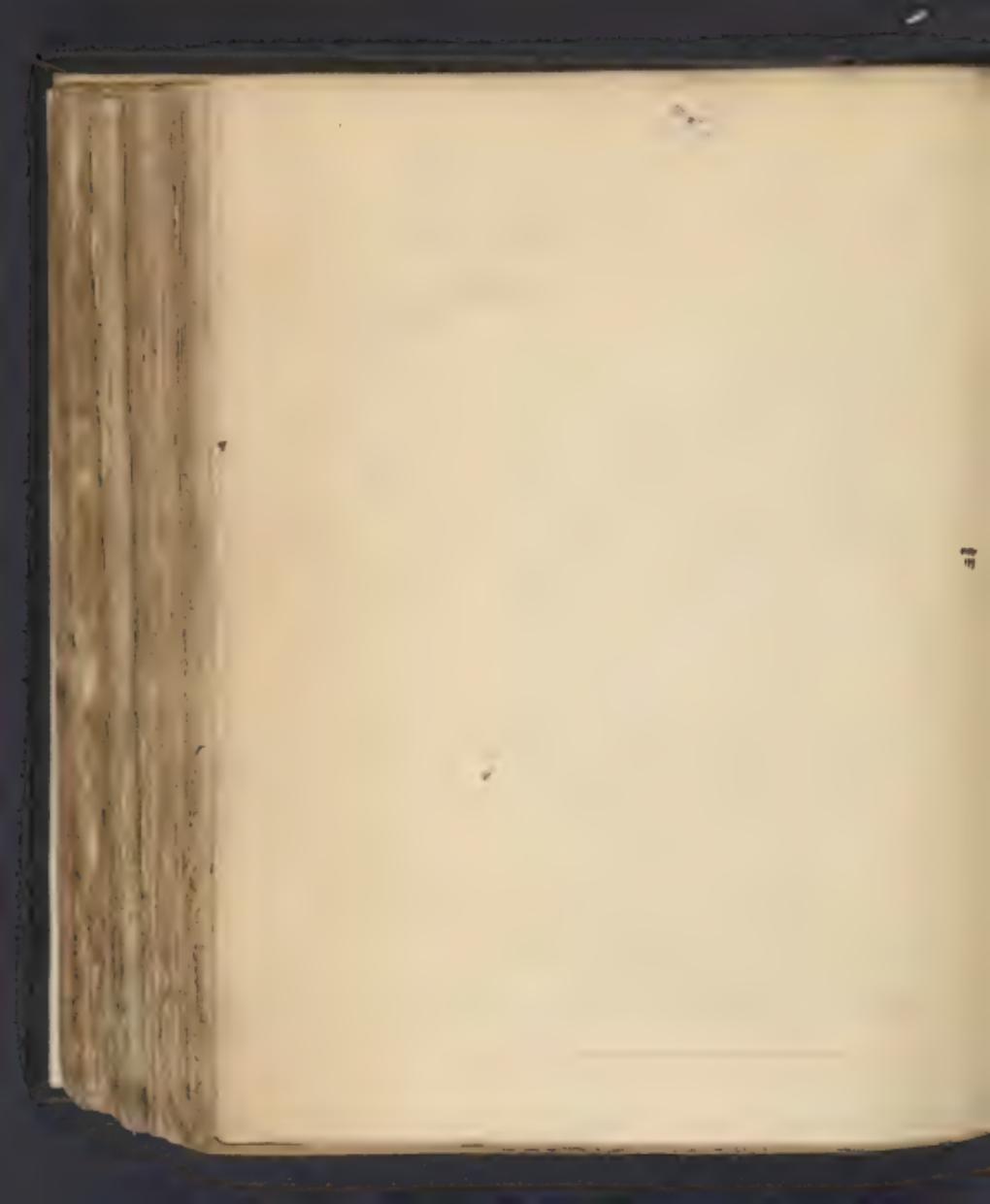
In a number of instances which I made last evening under the direction of one, just up to the following appearance was observed in the trachea and lungs. 1st. A slight degree of inflammation. 2d. A thick uniform matter. 3d A membrane similar to that, which succeeds inflammations of the pleura and bowls. 4th In one case the trachea, the base, head and the lungs exhibited no marks of disease of any kind his case was violent and terminated suddenly.

Then Crocepi terminates fatally. -



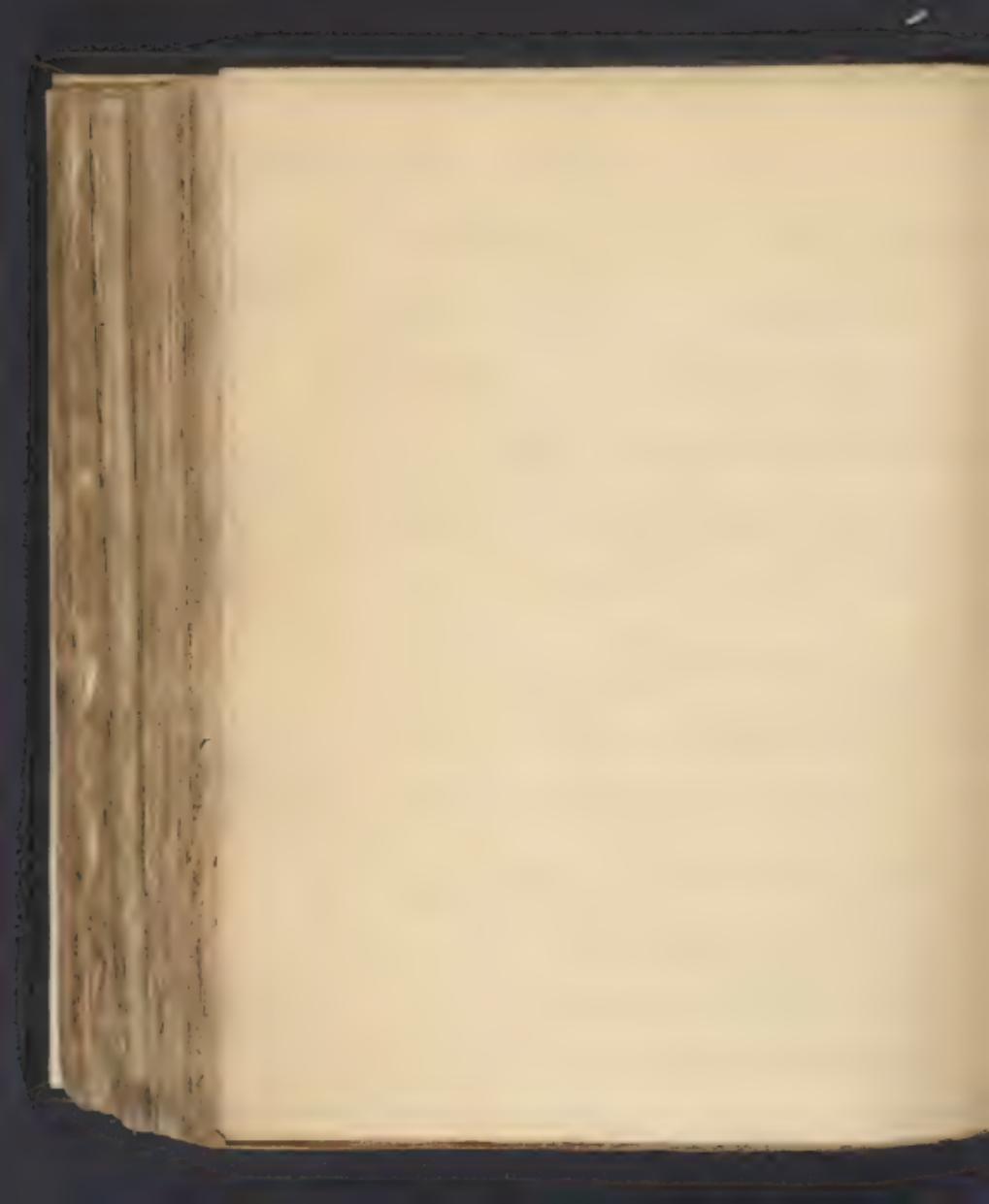
the patient is either saturated by the  
vapours of the morbid excrement or the  
inflammation has terminated by effusion.  
The effusion is a thick opaque substance,  
in quality very much like coagulated  
lymph, which, poured out on the inflam-  
mable surface of the trachea & there deprived  
of its aqueous parts, constitutes the  
membrane so frequently found on dis-  
sections. That this is a rational expla-  
nation is proved beyond a doubt by an  
analogy from other diseases for a membrane  
similar to this is found upon other  
mucous surfaces as in diseases of the  
pleura and intestines.

Respecting the treatment to be  
adopted for the cure of Hough, I find no  
little difference of opinion among medi-  
cines on the subject. Various writers



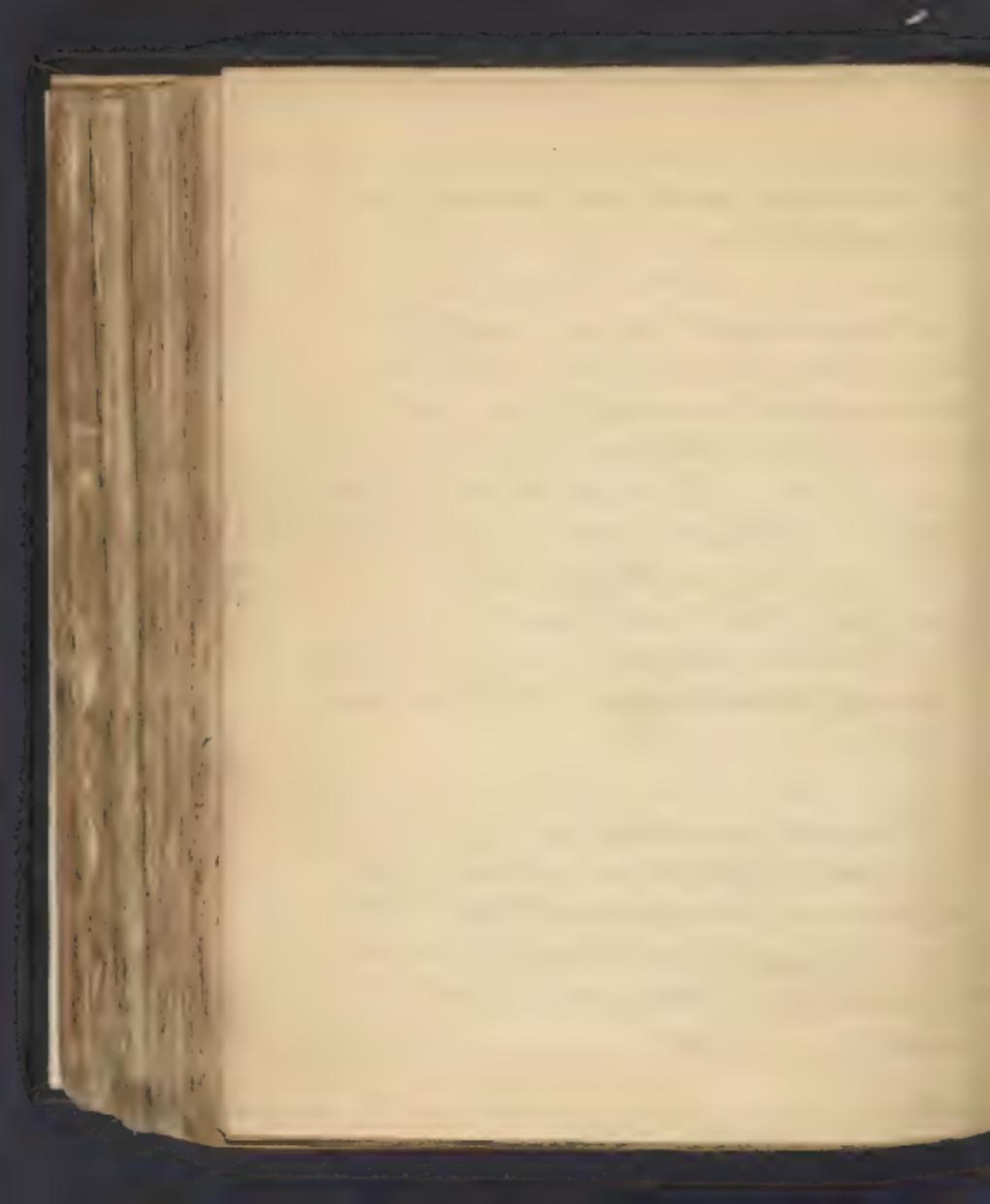
have been employed for its cure, some  
of which, possess powers very opposite in  
their nature. It is not my intention to  
consider all the remedies, which have  
been recommended, but merely to  
consider that plan of treatment which  
appears to me the most successful. What I  
have to say on the subject, I shall ar-  
range under three heads as applied to  
the three stages of the disease.

1st. The treatment of the first stage. For  
this <sup>stage</sup> of the disease, the best writers on  
the subject, direct us to use the most  
active means to restore the suppressed ex-  
cretions of the trachea and surface of  
the lungs, and by freely opening the  
bowels, and inducing perspiration, to guard  
against the general excitement of the  
system. For this purpose we are to



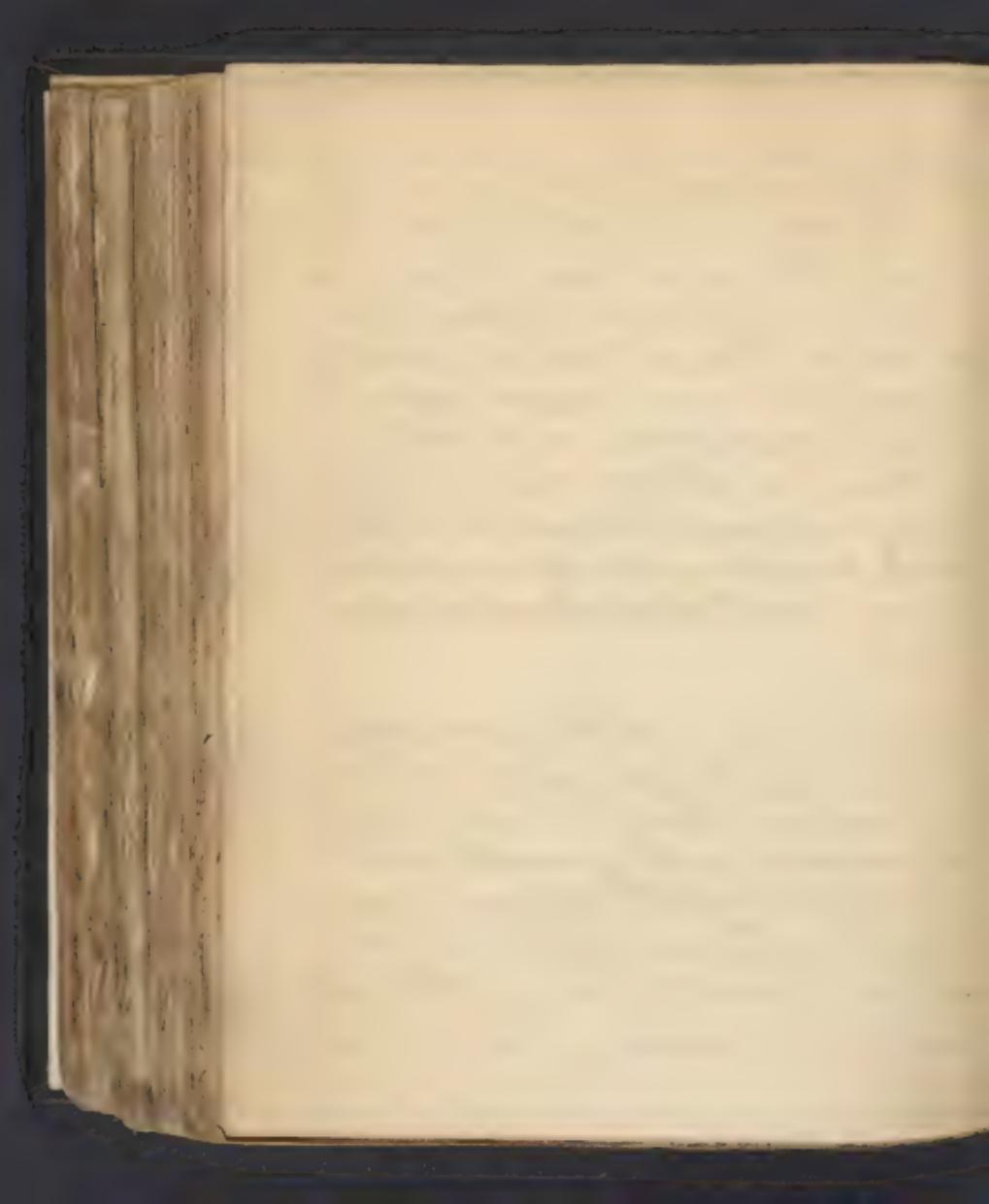
administer an emetic von. composed of tar-  
tarized antimony and ipecacuanha. The  
one he has bled under two years old. is from  
one to two grains of the former with from  
four to ten grains of the latter. The dose  
is to be repeated every half hour till it  
produces a plentiful secretion from the  
lungs. To know if effectual it should op-  
erate five or six times successively. Chil-  
dren will bear it easily by well the  
operation of this class of medicines. If  
the bowels are not opened by the emetic  
a dose of calomel ought to be admin-  
istered.

Calomel should always be given in  
large doses. A physician of considerable  
merit, informed me that he had  
given calomel in the dose of a drachm  
to a child four months old with



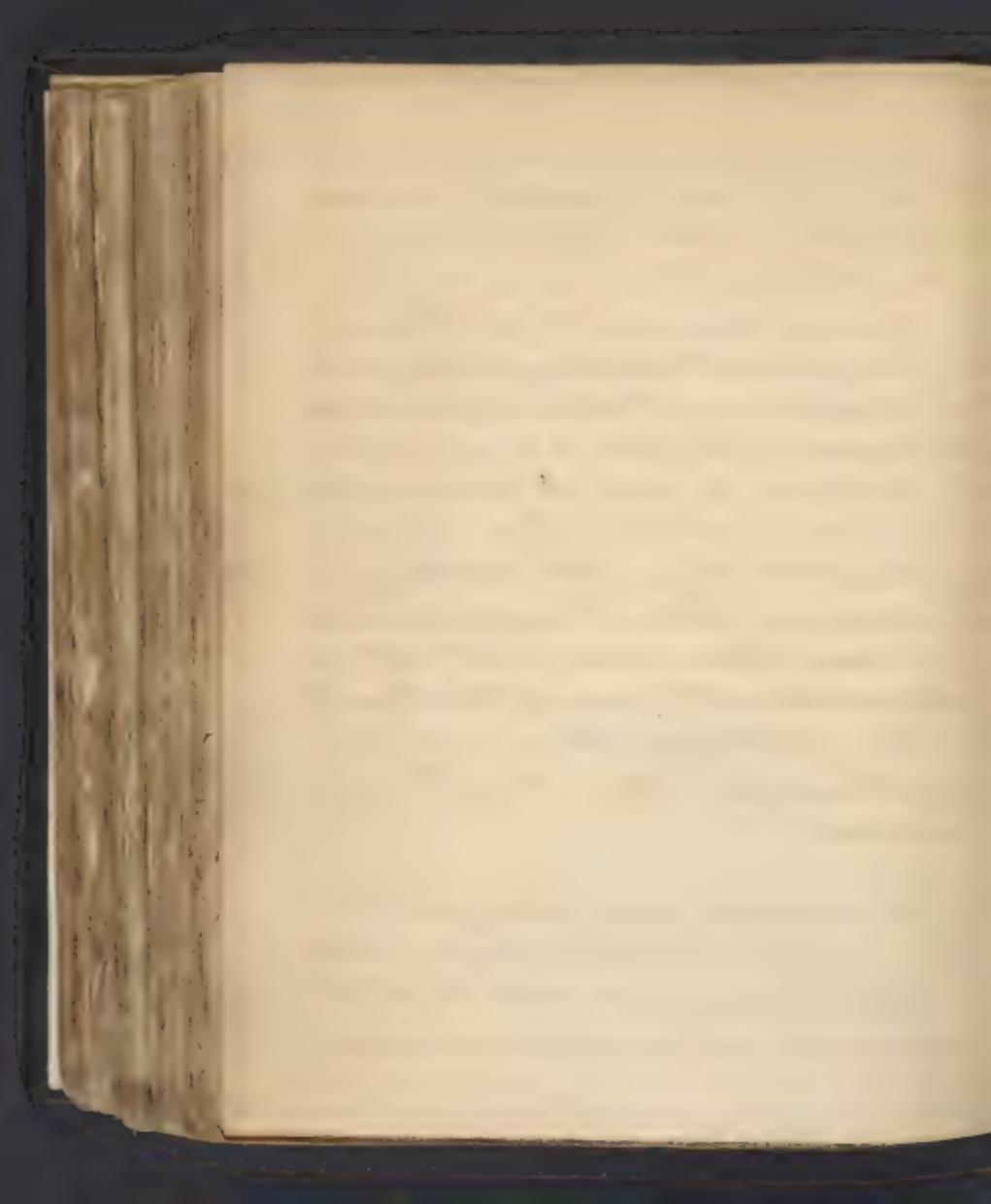
the happiest result. When given in large doses it seldom enters salvation. &c. And remarks, I have never known it to enter a salvation, when given to children, whose ages render them fit subjects for it! Its good effects seem to depend upon its exciting a counter action in the whole intestinal canal and thereby lessening the disposition of the trichial blood-vessels to penetrate the mucous or form the membrane which has been disengaged.

2d. The treatment of the second stage. In this stage of life, so great is the diminution of blood to the part affected and such is the general excitement of the system, the most, weighty and efficacious means of reducing the animal action and of lessening the in-



iation of the part affected becoming  
dispensably necessary. The first thing  
is to let blood either from the jugu-  
lar vein or the arm, to do this suc-  
cessfully is of the utmost importance in  
this as well as in all other inflamma-  
tory diseases. If the violent symptoms con-  
tinue after the first bleeding it ought  
to be repeated. The bleeding in urgent  
cases must be large often not less than  
an animi. This will sometimes arrest  
the disease like a charm. But not  
withstanding the power of the lancet  
in this stage of Convulps, the urgency of  
symptoms often urges auxiliary  
remedies.

The first and most powerful of  
these is the tinctured aconitum which  
should always be given either in full

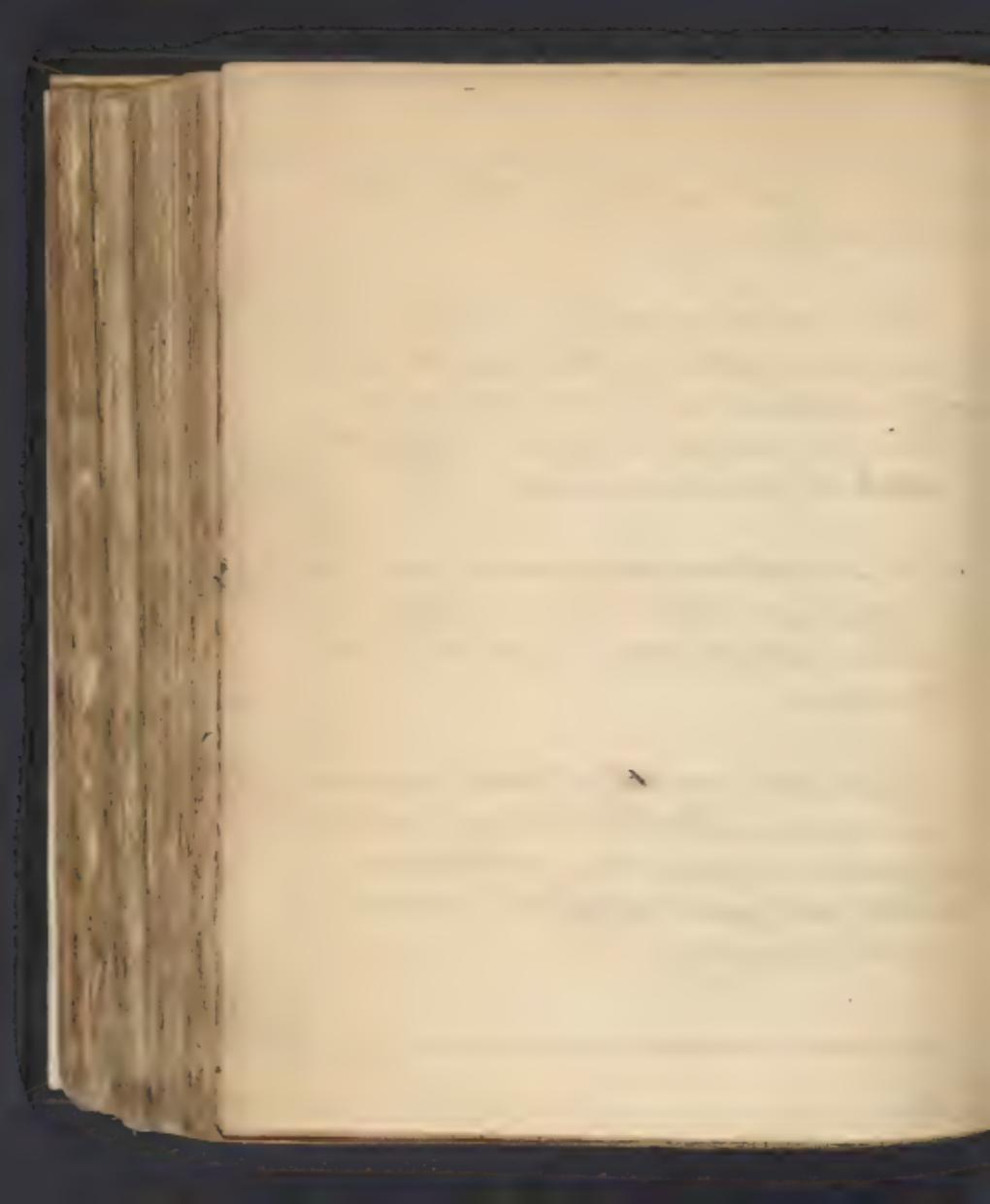


or numbing cloes during the violence  
of the disease.

The second auxiliary remedy is  
a purge composed of Salamet and  
plap or rhubarb. It should never  
follow the use of the antimony, if  
it fails to open the bowels.

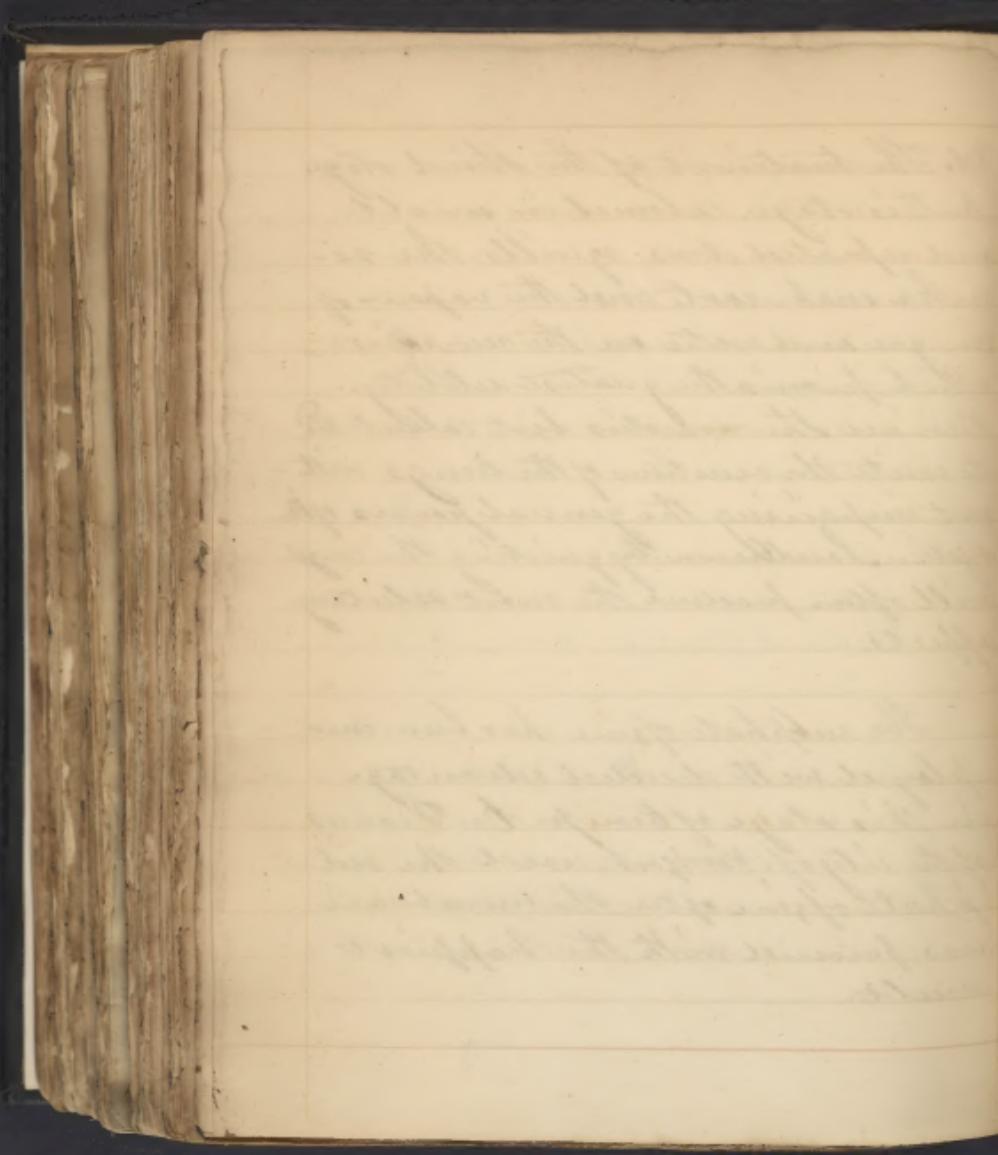
The third remedy consists in blis-  
ters applied to the throat or breast,  
to the back part of the neck or ex-  
ternities.

The last remedy, I shall mention  
is the warm bath. This is very uni-  
versal in its operation and seldom  
fails to give great relief. It is a most  
agreeable remedy.



3d. The treatment of the third stage.  
In this stage, calomel in small  
and repeated doses, squills, the re-  
nuka snake root and the vapour of  
vinegar and water on the membranes,  
which promises the greatest utility.  
These are the remedies best calculated  
to excite the secretions of the lungs with-  
out impairing the general powers of the  
system. Laudanum by quieting the cough  
will often procure the most salutary  
effects.

The sulphate of zinc has been em-  
ployed with decided advantage  
in this stage of Croup. Dr. Francis  
of the city of New York used the sul-  
phate of zinc after the membrane  
was paroxill with the happiest  
result.



The hepatic sulphuris has been strongly recommended in France as successful in the cure of Croup.

When the disease visits all our nostrils it has been recommended to perform the operation of laryngotomy, which affords the only chance of escape from suffocation by enabling the patient to breathe till the inflammation and swelling of the larynx may have time to subside. This operation when performed in an early stage of the disease is sometimes of the highest importance. Then it is resorted to in the last stage of the complaint with the idea of extracting the adherentitious membrane, it never is attempted with any advantage. Such is the opinion of those surgeons, who have tried the experiment.

